Medals to Kargil Soldiers

3386. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of soldiers still expecting promised Kargil medals even after two years; and

(b) what are the reasons for the delay in conferring medals on soldiers who fought the Kargil war from the peaks of Drass, Kargil, Batalik?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) and (b) Proposal received from Chiefs of Staff Commettee (COSC) "OP Vijay Star" and "OP Vijay Medal" has been processed and approval of the President has been obtained. Further 300 Gallantry awards, 47 Distinguished Service awards and 201 Mention-in-Despatches have been announced and conferred upon the recipients for Kargil Operation.

Privatisation of Defence Production

3387. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:

SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:

SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to privatise defence production and permit FDI in such strategic sector;

(b) if so, the nature of defence equipment opened up for the private sector;

(c) whether the entire equipment produced in the private sector are to be supplied to Government;

(d) if not, how the private sector is required to market their produce; and

(e) what are the items reserved for public sector in view of their importance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) to (e) The Defence industry is opened for participation by Indian private sector upto 100% of equity, with Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), component of it being permissible upto 26%, both, being subject to licensing permissions. This includes all types of Defence equipment. No items are now reserved exclusively for the public sector.